

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

offering for sale, by a vending machine, a plurality of products, wherein each product of the plurality of products is associated with a retail price, and wherein the retail prices are displayed to consumers;

selecting, by a processing device of the vending machine, one of the plurality of products to be offered as a mystery product, wherein the selection is based at least in part on data associated with the selected product;

calculating, by the processing device, a mystery product price for the selected mystery product, wherein the mystery product price is greater than a pre-determined minimum acceptable price for the mystery product and less than the retail price associated with the mystery product;

displaying an offer for the mystery product to consumers, the offer comprising an indication of the mystery product price, and wherein the offer does not comprise an indication of the identity of the mystery product;

determining, by the processing device, an acceptance of the offer by a consumer;
receiving, by the vending machine, an indication of funds provided by the consumer;

determining, by the processing device, that the funds are greater than or equal to the mystery product price; and

dispensing the mystery product to the consumer.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the offer comprises an indication of a category associated with the mystery product.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises an expiration date of the mystery product.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises a stock date of the mystery product.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises a sales rate of the mystery product.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises an inventory of the mystery product.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises a profit margin of the mystery product.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the data associated with the mystery product comprises at least two of:

- an expiration date of the mystery product;
- a stock date of the mystery product;
- a sales rate of the mystery product;
- an inventory of the mystery product; and
- a profit margin of the mystery product.

72. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

displaying, via a display device of a vending machine, an offer for a mystery product, wherein the offer only identifies a category associated with the mystery product and a mystery product price associated with the mystery product;

receiving, from a consumer, an indication of an acceptance of the displayed offer;
receiving, by the vending machine, an indication of funds provided by the consumer;

determining, by a processing device of the vending machine, that the funds are greater than or equal to the displayed mystery product price; and
dispensing the mystery product to the consumer.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the category comprises a “snack” category.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the category comprises a “drink” category.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, further comprising:
selecting, by the processing device, the mystery product from a plurality of available products offered for sale by the vending machine, wherein the mystery product is selected from a subset of the available products that are associated with the displayed category.

76. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:
displaying, via a display device of a vending machine, an offer for a mystery package comprising a first mystery product and a second mystery product, wherein the offer only identifies (i) a first category associated with the first mystery product, (ii) a second category associated with the second mystery product, and (iii) a mystery package price associated with the mystery package;
receiving, from a consumer, an indication of an acceptance of the displayed offer;
receiving, by the vending machine, an indication of funds provided by the consumer;
determining, by a processing device of the vending machine, that the funds are greater than or equal to the displayed mystery package price; and
dispensing each of the first and second mystery products to the consumer.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76, further comprising:
selecting, by the processing device, the first mystery product from a first subset of a plurality of available products offered for sale by the vending machine, the first subset being associated with the first category; and

selecting, by the processing device, the second mystery product from a second subset of a plurality of available products offered for sale by the vending machine, the second subset being associated with the second category.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the first and second categories are different.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the first category comprises a “snack” category and wherein the second category comprises a “drink” category.

80. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a vending machine, an indication of a product category that defines a subset of products offered for sale by the vending machine, the product category being selected by a consumer;

receiving, by the vending machine, an indication of a monetary amount provided by the consumer;

selecting, by a processing device of the vending machine, and based on the product category selected by the consumer and the monetary amount provided by the consumer, a mystery product associated with the product category, wherein a minimum price associated with the mystery product is less than or equal to the monetary amount provided by the consumer; and

dispensing the mystery product to the consumer, the dispensing revealing the identity of the mystery product to the consumer.

81. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a vending machine, an indication of a selection of a product by a consumer

receiving, by the vending machine, an indication of funds provided by the consumer;

determining, by a processing device of the vending machine, that an amount of change is due to the consumer;

identifying a product offered for sale by the vending machine that is associated with a minimum acceptable price that is less than or equal to the amount of change due to the consumer;

offering the identified product to the consumer as a mystery product in exchange for the amount of change due to the consumer;

determining an acceptance of the offer;

dispensing the selected product to the consumer; and

dispensing the mystery product to the consumer, the dispensing of the mystery product revealing the identity of the mystery product to the consumer.

82-94. (Cancelled)